

MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S
ANNUAL REPORT

STATE PUBLICATIONS COLLECTION

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IMPROVING ACCESS TO MONTANA'S TREASURES

The Montana Historical Society is responsible for putting our state's history into your hands, minds, and hearts—for giving you access to our state's historic treasures.

If the Montana Historical Society were simply to warehouse photographs, oral history tapes, dresses, furniture, diaries, and letters from Montana's past, we would have failed all our constituents who love the West's past.

Fortunately, once we have preserved resources, we are also responsible for organizing, analyzing, digitizing, designing, and presenting information about Montana's past so that it is accessible to you.

Judging these missions is no small feat. Until we safely

preserve resources, they will be lost for all time. Until we carefully catalog resources, no one can find them and use them. And until we create curriculum, texts, exhibits, magazine articles, workshops, web pages, indices, and more, the stories that can be drawn from primary source materials will forever be lost.

We are pleased to share with you how we made Montana's history accessible to you between July 1, 2000, and June 30, 2001. Despite obstacles of outdated, inadequate facilities and technology and of minimal staff, we believe we have been good stewards of Montana's unique and priceless historical resources—and have been vigorous in our efforts to make them accessible to you.



Improving Access: Through the Magazine

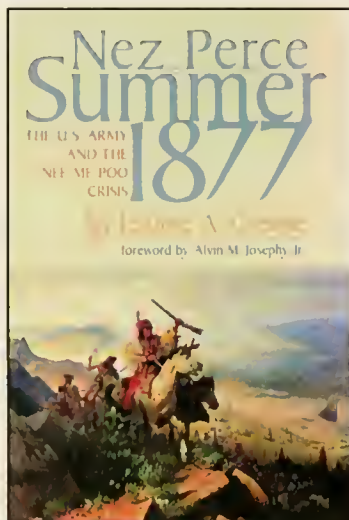
Fifty years ago, Albert J. Partoll and K. Ross Toole launched *Montana The Magazine of Western History* as the Montana Historical Society's flagship journal. *Montana* remains a miracle. Journalism is a cutthroat field. Better-known periodicals have achieved quick fame and then fallen prey to fickle times and tastes. Our small budget demands that we scrimp and save.

What accounts for our magazine's successful survival to a golden anniversary and beyond? First, the world's love affair with the American West flourishes.

Second, from its birth, *Montana The Magazine of Western History* embraced a wise, practical formula: the very best scholarship presented in lively, clear, and interesting writing, beautiful art, and creative designs. This magic recipe accounts for *Montana's* appeal around the globe to university scholars, high school students, journalists, Hollywood writers, and you.

Improving Access: Through Montana Historical Society Press Books

- *Nez Perce Summer, 1877: The U. S. Army and the Nee-Me-Poo Crisis* (paperback reprint) This volume was chosen by both the History and the Military Book Clubs as featured selections.
- *A Guide to Historic Hamilton* (Montana Mainstreet Series, Volume 4)
- *A Guide to Historic Kalispell* (Montana Mainstreet Series, Volume 5)
- *Wheel Boats on the Missouri: The Atkinson-O'Fallon Expedition of 1824-26*
- *Fifty Years after the Big Sky: New Perspectives on the Fiction and Films of A. B. Guthrie, Jr.*
- *Battle for Butte* (reprint)



Improving Access: Electronically

- www.montanahistoricalsociety.org. The worldwide web offers another way for us to help the past come alive. The world can now stay current with Society news, exhibits, programs, research, and photograph or art reproduction options by stopping at our newly refurbished web page.
- Hired a data entry technician to input museum catalog card information into an electronically searchable software program, Past Perfect with funding from the Institute for Museum and Library Services.
- Began cataloging the recently acquired Bob Scriver collection electronically.
- Joined a consortium of seventeen Montana libraries in a project titled the "Western Montana Shared Network Catalog" which will make our library holdings searchable through a shared online catalog.



Montana Heritage Project - Community History Online at Simms High School

Improving Access: Through our Transformed Museum Store

In this bright, open, newly remodeled store, look for your favorite history books and Russell prints and discover our new selection of prints, cards, Lewis and Clark reference materials, and Montana-made gifts, which highlight the Society's bison symbol. Store revenues support improved access and care of our collections and records.

Improving Access: Through New Exhibits at the Montana Historical Society Museum in Helena

- "Life on the Upper Missouri: The Art of Karl Bodmer" introduced visitors to the region's landscapes and Montana's original residents as Lewis and Clark saw them.
- "A Legacy in Bronze: The Sculpture of Robert M. Scriver" celebrated our acquisition of Bob Scriver's magnificent collection.
- "It's a Matter of Time: The Pocket Watch in American History," our newest permanent exhibit, is located on the third floor.
- "Celebrating Fifty Years of the Archie Bray Foundation" offered a small tribute to an important cultural heritage partner in Helena.

Improving Access – Through Historic Preservation Programs and Assistance

The State Historic Preservation Office oversaw the listing of twenty-one new Montana properties in the National Register of Historic Places:

Crow Creek Water Ditch, Broadwater County
Fromberg Bridge, Carbon County
Masonic Temple (Great Falls), Cascade County
Morel Bridge, Deer Lodge County
Anaconda Multiple Properties, Deer Lodge County
Glover Cabin
Brunswick House
Sheehan Boardinghouse
Lorraine Apartments
Granite Apartments
James V. Collins House
Branscombe Auto Machine Shop
Lundwall Building (Bozeman), Gallatin County
Methodist Episcopal Church of Three Forks, Gallatin County
Harrison Lake Patrol Cabin, Glacier National Park
Lincoln Creek Snowshoe Cabin, Glacier National Park
Slayton Mercantile (Lavina), Golden Valley County
Wicks-Seiler Residence (Helena), Lewis and Clark County
Lenox Flats (Missoula), Missoula County
University Area Historic District (Missoula), Missoula County [over six hundred buildings]
Charter Oak Mine and Mill, Powell County
Wolf Mountains Battlefield, Rosebud County

A small increase in federal funding for historic preservation allowed the State Historic Preservation Office to grant, on a matching basis, \$46,000 to the following bricks-and-mortar preservation projects: Elks Lodge, Livingston; Grabow Hotel, Livingston; Northern Rockies Heritage Center, Fort Missoula; Downtown Miles City Facade Improvement Project, Miles City; Copper King Mansion (W. A. Clark Mansion), Butte; Thompson-Hickman County Library and Museum, Virginia City.

The Office also awarded \$30,720 in federal historic preservation funds for community historic building surveys in Great Falls and Missoula.



Herd Bull welcomes visitors in all weather

Improving Access for Montana Students and Teachers: Through Programs, Tours, Camps, Footlockers, and Slides

- We added "The Diary of a Victorian Girl," to our repertoire of seven other guided tours developed for students.
- To enhance a family's ability to enjoy and learn from our exhibits, we produced a brochure, "Visiting the Museum with Children."
- We developed and placed online four Curriculum Guides for high school history teachers and their students, all based on theme issues of *Montana The Magazine of Western History*. Check www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/departments/education.



Youth Summer Activities, Society front lawn

- The Montana Public Broadcasting Station filmed the Society's third annual History Camp for middle school students held in Virginia City. Montana PBS aired the program in spring 2002.
- We completed *Charlie Russell Art* and *Symbols of Montana*, two new footlockers for statewide school use.

Improving Access: Through Programs, Conferences, and Technical Assistance

- Every day of the Fifty-seventh Montana Assembly, senators and representatives learned about "that day in legislative history," courtesy of essays provided by the Montana Historical Society. That research is now captured in the booklet *Capitol Capsules*.
- The Archives staff created a "Women in the 1972 Constitutional Convention" display for a combined legislative and Governor's Office celebration of Women's History Month, March 2001.
- Fifty consultants and state and federal agency representatives attended the Preservation Office's August 2000 workshop on how to follow federal and state preservation legislation efficiently.
- We joined West Yellowstone museum and preservation organizations to host the Society's Twenty-seventh Annual Montana History Conference featuring "The Lure of the Parks."
- The year was alive with monthly lectures, author talks, workshops, summer "Under the Tent" programs for youngsters, the Western Rendezvous of Art, and much more. As the year began, Montana Historical Society Press author Susan Badger Doyle completed a Montana speaking tour about her compilation of Bozeman Trail memoirs, *Journeys to the Land of Gold: Emigrant Diaries from the Bozeman Trail, 1863-66*. As the year ended, Press author Jerome A. Greene began a Pacific Northwest speaking tour on his book *Nez Perce Summer 1877*, which included ten Montana stops.

- The year's Montana Historic Preservation poster titled "A Gift to Montana"—an annual preservation educational tool—featured the restored Capitol barrel vault.

Improving Access: Through Partnerships

- We joined the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce and Downtown Helena, participated in Helena's summer events, and became a partner in community planning.
- Our Photograph Archives staff completed cataloging the Warren McGee collection of Northern Pacific Railway photographs



Reinstallation of Driving the Golden Spike

with funding for contracted assistance from the Northern Pacific Railway Historical Association.

- The US Bank in Helena gave the Society access to its display window in downtown Helena for Society presentations on Sriver, new Museum Store products, and more.
- Society Museum employees worked with the Department of Administration throughout the Capitol renovation process to safeguard Capitol art and completed their special stewardship work with the safe return of Amedee Joullin's painting, *Driving the Golden Spike*, to the head of the Grand Staircase.

Others Who Helped Us Make History Accessible: Grants and Awards

- Claiborne/Ortenberg Foundation funded the Montana Heritage Project, providing heritage education in rural Montana
- Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation provided scholarships for college students to give papers at the annual Montana History Conference
- Montana Cultural and Aesthetic Trust provided one grant to the Society for a Korean War oral history project and one for a book and exhibit on the Farm Security Administration photographs of Montana
- Northwest Rendezvous Group of Artists/City of Helena Civic Center Board shared Western Rendezvous of Art proceeds with us for art acquisition.
- Institute of Museum and Library Services provided a two-year grant to the Museum Program for disaster and emergency planning, catalog data entry, and live and web outreach.
- Bureau of Land Management shared the costs for the development and of a State Antiquities Database Development

Significant Acquisitions We Will Want to Make Accessible to You

- Roy Wells Family: South Central Montana sheep shearing and railroad photographs
- Sam Treloar: Collection of music, musical instruments, and memorabilia from Butte
- Congressman Rick Hill: Congressional Papers
- Governor Thomas Judge: Governor's papers
- Olive Johnston Henry family: 1950s and 1960s Helena photographs
- Barbara Richardson: Variety of historical artifacts including clothes, dolls, and doll clothes as well as photos and archival material
- Pauline Slade Wadsworth and Caroline Slade Hicks: Broadwater Hotel items
- Fifty-seventh Legislature: Records including approximately thirty-three feet of paper materials and over three thousand audiotapes.

"In all the changes that we face in Montana, we are close in time and in spirit to the loggers, ranch wives, cowboys, and miners who made Montana what it is.

As you collect and preserve some of these stories, I hope that you think hard about what aspects of Montana you want to preserve, not just in boxes in the Montana Historical Society, but in the way you live your life."

Judy Martz speaking to Montana Heritage Projects student and teachers, April 4, 2001



Exhibit opening, Native American Dancers and Drummers

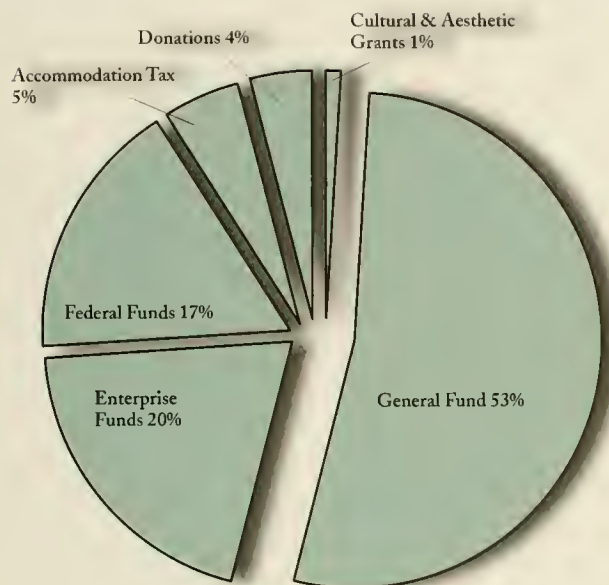


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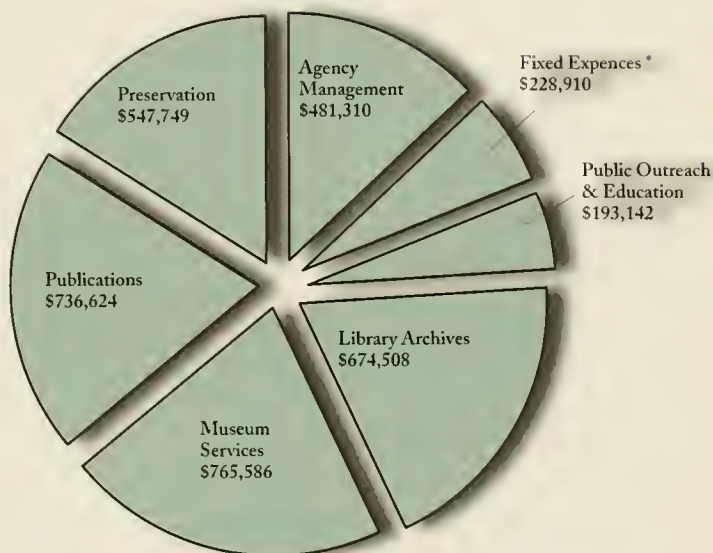
<http://www.archive.org/details/montanahistorica2001mont>

MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL BASE BUDGET: \$3,627,830

FUNDING



EXPENDITURES



*Fixed Costs include: Rent, Insurance, Capitol Grounds Maintenance

Profile of the Society

- Governed by a fifteen-member Board of Trustees appointed by the Governor.
- Organized into five programs: Library-Archives; Museum; Publications; Preservation; and Agency Management. Public Education and Outreach span all programs.
- Functions with fifty-two full-time and twelve part-time employees and an annual budget of \$3.6 million.
- Publishes a quarterly western history journal, a newsletter, and three to six books each year.
- Lists two to three dozen Montana properties in the National Register of Historic Places and sparks five to ten million dollars in historic preservation rehabilitation work through tax credit incentives annually.
- Holds in trust for Montana: 100,000 books; 400,000 historic photographs; 16,000 maps; 2,000 oral history interviews; 13,000 cubic feet of archival material; 45,000 artifacts; and 5,000 pieces of artwork; 35,000 inventory files for all known Montana archaeological, historic, and architectural sites and 23,000 cultural resource survey reports; 500,000 artifacts and 248 buildings in Virginia and Nevada Cities.
- Owns the Original Governor's Mansion in Helena and manages it with assistance from a citizen restoration board.
- Responsible, as owners, for preservation of state-owned buildings and artifacts at Virginia and Nevada cities; the Moss Mansion in Billings; and the Daly Mansion in Hamilton.
- Qualifies under federal tax codes to receive tax-deductible charitable gifts and actively solicits private and public grants.

Montana visitors make visiting a historic or cultural center one of their top three priorities.

Institute of Tourism and Recreation Research
University of Montana.

Programs Attached to the Society

- Montana's Lewis and Clark Commission, an organization attached to the Society, completed its Strategic and Fundraising Plans, secured legislative approval for Lewis and Clark license plates, and, in cooperation with Society staff, provided communities with guidance on how to unify and improve Lewis and Clark signage around Montana.
- The Montana Heritage Commission, an organization attached to the Society to oversee Virginia and Nevada Cities and similar at-risk sites, secured additional federal funding for historic building preservation, hired a volunteer coordinator, and hosted nineteenth-century life-style training for families involved in *Frontier House*, a PBS historical reality series.
- The Montana Heritage Project, funded by the Liz Claiborne and Art Ortenberg Foundation enabled high school students and teachers in Bigfork, Browning, Chester, Corvallis, Dillon, Eureka, Harlowton, Lewistown, Libby, Ronan, Roundup, Simms, and Townsend to ask critical questions of their region's past, conduct primary source research, and provide their communities with programs, oral history tapes, exhibits, and archives.

CHALLENGES MET & CHALLENGES AHEAD



Dear Friends:

I am again pleased to put the 2000-2001 Montana Historical Society's Annual Report into your mailbox and your hands.

I grew up hearing the adage "Help comes to those who help themselves." This year we tried hard to live that motto.

Calendar year 2001 began with the Fifty-seventh Montana legislative session. We prepared statistics, graphics, examples, and illustrations to reveal the extent of the Society's need for staff, space, and equipment. While state budgets did not permit funding all our requests, the Society appreciated the legislators' thoughtful consideration of our needs. We were especially glad for funding that helps us respond to Montana communities and their growing requests for aid as they prepare for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial.

I invested many hours in nurturing our Montana History Foundation—the Society's nonprofit fundraising partner. This year, our fifteen-year-old, rejuvenated Foundation hired a development director and a membership coordinator, launched a newsletter titled *Legacy*, and teamed up with other partners to build a warehouse that the Society will lease from the Foundation for the Bob Sriver collection. The Foundation has also launched a major campaign entitled "History Runs through It" that is designed to help us with our educational outreach work.

As this year ended, our Montana Historical Society Board of Trustees asked us to analyze the fees we charge for services throughout the agency. The study compared our fees to those of sister agencies and launched two separate, professional surveys of user needs, interests, and willingness to pay.

Still, the challenges that we face remain enormous:

- Our fifty-year-old building remains inadequate in most every way from storage to public program space.
- The backlog of catalog and index information needing to be made available electronically remains overwhelming.
- Our web page is being creatively and bravely maintained by a battery of historians—not information technology specialists.
- The services you request and several unfunded mandates are still being accomplished by the same number of staff that we had in 1985.
- Our ability to travel to local communities remains very limited by minimal operating funds.

Thank you for another year of enthusiastic support as we work hard to put Montana and the West's history into your hands. We look forward to your continued support and assistance as we seek to improve our stewardship of and access to Montana history.

Sincerely,

Arnold Olsen, Ph.D.
Director

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Cover Image:

*At Lemhi, by Robert F. Morgan, 1988, Oil on Canvas
(Lewis and Clark in the Beaverhead Mountains, July 1805)*

Above:

*Recent Acquisition, Contemporary Blackfeet Beaded Flag
Bag by Denelle Parsons, Browning*

